

The Athenian Mercury:

Tuesday, June 6. 1693.

Quest. 1. **W**Hether any Man or Woman without Conjuring is able to answer these several Questions: Life long or short? healthful or unhealthful? Rich or Poor? Or what way to get Riches? If the best times be past or to come? Women with Child or not? If not, whether ever have any? Whether you shall marry the Person desired, or what will hinder? Servants or Lodgers, if true or not? Goods stolen, whether they will be had again or not, and the best way to get them? Law-Suits who will overcome? If good to remove from the House or Place where you are? Journeys, if successful or not? Money owing, if recoverable or not? An absent Person alive or Dead? Friends and Acquaintance, whether true or false?

Ans. 'Tis all Abominable Nonsensical Stuff, from the beginning to the end, nothing in't but a design to confound silly Peoples Brains, and be paid for it; but the Instigator, who is the Devil, and first puts ill or ignorant People upon the Study, gets well by the Bargain, since there's not a Profelyte to this Art but is an Idolater, because it takes Peoples dependance off from God Almighty, and fixes it elsewhere, whilst with a sinful Curiosity they endeavour to pry into Secrets, depending upon the Event, and neglecting their Duty; our Saviour as he was Man, knew not Times and Seasons, and checkt his Disciples for being over-busie with that incommunicable Attribute of his Father. Time was when these sort of People were taken Cognizance of by the Magistrate, and punished for their Abuses and Impositions on the weaker sort of People; but to the pretended Questions in which this *She Star-gazer* offers a satisfaction, which we shall consider singly by themselves, with our Resolves upon 'em to such as would be satisfied in any of 'em.

1. Life long or short? Healthful or unhealthful? Ans. Long very probably if Young, Temperate in Dyet, Active: But if Old, or undutiful to Parents, Debauch'd, Intemperate, or a Liver in open and actual contempt of the Laws, no body but an Astrologer would take a Leaf of your Life.

2. Rich or Poor, or what way to get Riches? Ans. If Charitable, Industrious, and continue so, you are Rich, or shall be so if you live, for you have God Almighty's promise for it: but if you are given to Gaming, Women, entering into Bonds, or Slothfulness, the Stars can never keep you out of Rags and Poverty. In these two, and the following Answers, the Querist is to consider, that we are now examining the Common Method of Gods Providence, which is as certain, nay much more than in a Lottery, to throw the means of the Dice before 6 Aces or six Sixes, tho' We deny not but such a Chaunce is upon the Dice, and may be thrown in Tryals enough, but what wise Man can believe it would be his chance rather than the rest, since it is above 40000 to 1.

3. If the best Times be past, or to come? Ans. If by best Times you mean Happiness, that's certainly to be only intirely enjoy'd hereafter by such as live well here: But if you mean affluence of this Worlds Good, Friends, Reputation, &c. take the measures in the last Question, and you may reasonably enough expect yet better Times.

4. Women with Child or not? If not, whether ever have any? Ans. To the former part of the Question, tarry a little longer, and you will certainly know your self. As to the latter part, ten to one but any Woman that is not superannuated may expect the Affirmative. 'Tis

common for the Astrologers to tell a Maid that she is with Child, if she can but dissemble and play the Wife a little, nay they'll tell what Fortune the Nonentity shall have, as life long or short, healthful or unhealthful, Rich or Poor, &c.

5. Whether you shall Marry the Person desired, or what shall hinder? Ans. We have known one of the most famous Planet Prophetesses in Town, tell two Young Persons that afterwards married together, that she shou'd have two or three Husbands, and be as many Wives, now unless the Stars influence one of 'em to be hang'd for acting agreeably to the former influences, this must be some Riddle, but what Riddle no Man in his Wits needs to trouble himself about, for 'tis evident that 'tis not the Stars, but Judicial Star-Gazers that influence such Contradictions.

6. Servants or Lodgers if true or not? Goods stolen whether they will be had again, or not, and the best way to get them? Ans. Enquire of those that know them, and if you are very scrupulous, enquire after of those Persons Credit, which gave you Information, this is a safer and truer way than Astrology. As for the second part, which rather looks like a New Question, the best way is to see the Thief-Catcher; but its some odds you never have what you lose, tho' if you go into Moor-fields, Tower-hill, Ludgate, and other places of Inspiration, you may be certain of loosing some more after it, for Astrologers won't let their 12 Houses for nothing.

7. Law-suits, &c. Answer, This and the following are all of a piece, equally Impious and Absurd, and we can't a while to consider 'em all, only the business of Planetary Hours, which this Authress pretends she can give to any one for the undertaking of a thing to be prosperous: We can't but seriously caution every one that pretends to Christianity, to take heed of any dealing with these Wretches, especially as to their Planetary Hours and Seasons set apart for business, as being lucky or unlucky. St. Paul lookt upon such as observed days and times, and months, and seasons, (in this very sense) to be in the ready way to Apostacy, and to whom his preaching was in vain: But we shall take occasion to consider of these things more fully when Mr. G——rys day runs, wherein he has promis'd to call us to an Account.

Quest. 2. Gentlemen, It is a received Opinion, that Bodies when dead are much heavier than when they were alive: I have heard it contradicted, therefore desire your Opinion of it; if you affirm it, I desire what may be the Reason of it?

Ans. 'Tis certain they are lighter; witness some Experiments made by Mr. Boyle; as first, A Mouse weighing 3 drachms and half, was put into the Scale of a very Nice Ballance, and carefully counterpoized, together with a string that was tyed about his Neck like a Noose, and after by drawing the Ends of it was there strangled. As soon as he judg'd him dead, he weigh'd him again, and tho' nothing was seen to fall from him, yet contrary to the received Tradition, he found the Mouse to have lost about $\frac{7}{8}$ of a grain.

Afterwards in a larger Ballance, but very good one purposely made for Nice Experiments, he took a very young Kidling of about 10 or 11 Ounces in weight, and caus'd him to be strangled on the same Scale wherein he had been put, and when he was quite dead, he found him not only not to be grown heavier, but lighter by four Grains, by which Experiments the falsity of the

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common received Opinion is discovered. The Reason of which probably proceeds from the Avolation of divers subtle Particles upon their violent Convulsive Strugglings with Death.

Quest. 3. There was a Man ow'd me some Money, we Accounted, and he paid me; but afterwards considering with my self, I do think that the Interest was counted in the Sum, and by that means I might take more than my due: Now he had a Wife who he accused of Adultery, quitted her, lived some Miles from her, and married another, gave her separate maintenance, and wasted his Estate with the latter, and is since dead, leaving two Daughters by the first: *Pray, Sirs, tell me to whom I ought to pay this, their Mother or them, or one of them, for one is well provided for, the other very poor, which if the Law and Equity would give me leave, I would put her to Apprentice, that she might afterwards be in a Capacity to maintain her self, but living at home with her Mother, will be for ever ruined in all probability?*

Ans. We think you ought to pay it where the Man if he were alive would give it, were he immediately to leave the World again upon it; and 'tis most rational, by what we can gather of the Circumstances of the Question, that he would do something with it for that Daughter which you say is in so mean a Capacity. We know not what you can mean by Law and Equity suffering you to do a Charitable Action, We know not who can be against it, and no doubt but the Mother will readily embrace such an Offer from you; in such an Act you will do very well, and like an honest Man.

Quest. 4. I have been much minded to send to know your Opinion about a Dream that I several times have had, but I being no great regard of Dreams, and unwilling to trouble you, did forbear, 'till the other Night talking of my Dream, a Gentlewoman (who is Wife of a Wealthy Citizen, and a very discreet sensible Gentlewoman) says she has several times had the like Dream, and pressed me to send to know your Judgments: It is thus — I have of late Dreamt that I have gradually got up from the Ground in sight of many People, and said in my rising, *See how I flye*, and have with unweariedness made my Course thorough the Air, and moved my Arms and Leggs just as a man does in Swimming, and have come down again with Ease; I did not stand upright in the Air, but lay along as if I was in the Water swimming, (tho' I cannot swim at all.) Once I dreamt I did it in the Countrey from the Top of a high Hill, and I set my self down on the High-way: Another time I dreamt I got up at one end of the Mell in St. James's Park, and flew to the other end; and another time in Chancery-lane, besides other places that I cannot so well remember, (I thought in my Dream I was very sensible when I was thus flying) and one day I went to the Mell, and used the same Postures as I had in my Dream, but could not raise my self to flye at all. *The Gentlewoman's Dream was much like mine, and she did flye, and said, See how I flye: Pray resolve us as soon as you can in your Mercury?*

Ans. Use a little temperate Diet, and Fasting sometimes, and you will find your Dreams alter'd; 'tis a sanguine eager Complexion that you owe these Fancies to, and not any Efficient Genius or Supernatural Cause that prompts you.

Mr. Increase Mather's New Discourses concerning the New-England WITCHES and WITCHCRAFTS, being put to several Presses, will be Published speedily: To which will be added the Observations of a Person who was upon the place six or seven days, when the suspected WITCHES were first taken into Examination. *Licensed and Entered according to Order.* Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry.

Advertisements.

To Morrow will be Published

AN Answer to the late K. James's Last Declaration. Dated at St. Germain, April 17. S. N. 1693. Licensed by Mr. Secretary Trenchard. London, Printed for Richard Baldwin near the Oxford Arms-Inn in Warwick-lane. 1693.

THere is now Translating in Order for the Press, *The History of the Famous Edict of Nants: Containing the most remarkable things that have happened in France both before and since its Publication, upon Occasion of the Diversity of Religions; and especially a full Account of all the Contraventions, Non-Executions, Elusions, Artifices, Violences, and other Injustices, which the Protestants reasonably Pretend, and Complain they have Suffered, contrary to the Tenour of the said Edict, called and held Sacred and Irrevocable, to the time of its most Perfidious Revocation in October, 1685. with all the Remarkable Occurrences that have followed since the said New Edict. In Four Volumes. This FRENCH Book of MARTYRS, which the World has been so long expecting (is Licensed and Entered in the Hall-Book, and) will be Translated with all the Accuracy so great a Work requires.*

A New Discovery of that unknown part of the Earth, call'd *Terra Incognita Australis*, or the Southern World. By JAMES SADEUR a French man: Who being cast there by a Shipwrack, liv'd 35 Years in that Countrey. These Memoirs were thought so Curious that they were kept Secret in the Cabinet of a late great Minister of State, and never Publish'd till now since his Death. Translated from the French Copy printed at Paris by Publick Authority. *Licensed and Entered according to Order.* Price Bound One Shilling. Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry.

ELixir Stomachicum: Or, the great Cordial Elixir for the Stomach; of a delicate Flavour, and pleasant bitterish Taste: Not Purging, but Cordial only; to be drank at any time, (but especially in a Morning) in any Liquor, as Ale, Tea, Muon, Canary, White-Wine, A Dram of Brandy, &c. It makes the best Purl in the World in Ale, and in Canary, Tea, &c. very pleasant and wholesome, far exceeding Purl made of Wormwood, which (being so hot and drying) hurts the Sight, and dries the Blood very much: This having the Quintessence of all the Ingredients of the bitter Draught in it, and many other excellent Stomachicks brought into a small quantity, as that 30 or 40 Drops is a Dose; you may make it at your pleasure in a Glass of White-Wine, Tea, or other Liquor; it procures a good Appetite, helps Digestion, expels all Wind, Strengthens the Stomach, purifies the Blood, and destroys the Scurvy, with many other Virtues mentioned in the Bills given with it; but these six things (especially) it does beyond belief, without your experience. Price One Shilling each Bottle.

It is to be Sold by Mr. John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry; and at these Coffee-houses, Viz. Symonds-Inn in Chancery-Lane, at Vigore's in the Old Pallace-Yard, Westminster, Victualling-Office at Tower-Hill, Man's at Charing-Cross, Essex at Whitechappel, North's in King's-street by Guild-Hall, Richard's at Temple-bar, Smythers in Thames-street, Will's in Covent Garden, Blacketts at Spittle-fields, Wells at the Postern in Aldermanbury, John's in Fuller's Rents, Buckeridge's without Aldersgate, Hamet's on London-bridge, Brown's at Wapping Old-stairs, John's by the Kings-bench, Jonathan's in Exchange Alley, Smith's at Lambeth, by the Church, Cleve's at Greenwich, by the Church; by Mr. Tho. Collet. Jun. near the Hermitage, Tobacco-nist; Mr. Leavinton, Fruiterer at the Royal Exchange, and Tho. Howkins in George-yard in Lombard-street.

IN Grays-Inn-lane in Plow-yard, the third Door, lives Dr. Thomas Kirlens, a Collegiate Physician, and Sworn Physician in Ordinary to King Charles the Second, until his death; who with a Drink and Pill (hindring no Business) undertakes to Cure any Ulcers, Sores, Swellings in the Nose, Face, or other parts; Scabs, Itch, Scurfs, Leprosies, and Venereal Disease, expecting nothing until the Cure be finished: Of the last he hath cured many hundreds in this City, many of them after fluxing, which carries the evil from the Lower Parts to the Head, and so destroys many. The Drink is 3 s. the Quart, the Pill 1 s. a Box, with Directions; a better Purger than which was never given, for they cleanse the Body of all Impurities, which are the causes of Dropsies, Gouts, Scurvies, Stone or Gravel, Pains in the Head, and other parts. With another Drink at 1 s. 6 d. a Quart. He cures all Fevers and hot Distempers without Bleeding, except in few Bodies. He gives his Opinion to all that writes or comes for nothing.